

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01104 281445Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----089772 281450Z /75

P 281300Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
INFO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7610
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY

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USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ROOTS REPERCUSSIONS

REF: DURBAN 0256; DURBAN 0263

IN LIGHT OF DURBAN CASE, FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE
OF INTEREST:

1. SAG LAW REGULATION ON FILMS: IN GOVT GAZETTE OF
OCT 9, 1974 (NO. 4426) THERE IS CONTAINED UNDER
CHAPTER 3 OF PUBLICATIONS ACT, 1974, SECTION 19
DEALING WITH FILMS. UNDER ACT FILMS MAY NOT BE
EXHIBITED TO PUBLIC UNLESS FILM HAS BEEN APPROVED BY
COMMITTEE. (PUBLICATION CONTROL BOARD COMMITTEE
MAY EXEMPT INDIVIDUAL FROM PROVISIONS UNDER THIS ACT
UPON APPLICATION. IF SPECIAL PERMISSION IS REFUSED,
EXHIBITING FILM CONTRAVENES ACT AND MAKES PERSON
GUILTY OF AN OFFENSE.

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2. CASE HISTORY: ON APRIL 19, 1972 CAPE TOWN
FILM SOCIETY WROTE TO CHAIRMAN OF PUBLICATION
CONTROL BOARD CONCERNING FACT THAT ON APRIL 16, CAPE
TOWN FILM SOCIETY WAS VISITED BY POLICE WHO
CONFISCATED A FILM BELONGING TO FRENCH EMBASSY.
LETTER ASKED WHETHER FILM SUPPLIED BY "LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN GOVTS" ARE SUBJECT

TO SENSORSHIP.

PUBLICATIONS CONTROL BOARD RESPONDED APRIL 26, 1972
BY LETTER AND DREW ATTENTION TO SECTION 9 (1) (A)
OF ACT 26 OF 1963 AS AMENDED, WHICH SAID FILM
MUST HAVE APPROVAL OF BOARD TO BE EXHIBITED.
LETTER SIGNED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN ALSO STATED: "THE
BOARD IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE SOURCE FROM WHICH FILMS
ARE OBTAINED, BUT ONLY WITH THE EXHIBITION THEREOF
IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE ACT. THE BOARD
DOES NOT QUERY THE BONA FIDES OF THE FILMS WHICH
MAY PROBABLY BE EXHIBITED ON EMBASSY PREMISES
WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTION, BUT IF THEY ARE MADE
AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION, THE LAW MUST BE
COMPLIED WITH."

THE BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICE INFORMED FSIO JOHN
BURNS (THEN BPAO) IN JUNE 1972 THAT THEY HELD VIEW
THAT EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILMS DO NOT HAVE TO BE
SUBMITTED TO CENSORSHIP AND SAID IT WOULD BE
VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR PUBLICATIONS CONTROL BOARD
TO EXAMINE THE HUNDREDS OF FILMS THEN IN RSA.

BURNS RESPONDED IN LETTER TO HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUE
THAT USIS DID NOT SUBMIT OUR FILMS FOR CENSORSHIP.

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3. ROOTS IN JOHANNESBURG: ON APRIL 18 BPAO
JACOBSEN RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM JOHANNESBURG
LAWYER H.A. OVISOWITZ OF WERTHEIM BECKER ATTORNEYS
WHO CLAIMED TO BE REPRESENTING WARNER BROTHERS
AFRICA (PTY) LTD. OVISOWITZ ASKED HOW ROOTS FILM
COULD BE SHOWN IF IT BELONGED TO WARNER BROTHERS
AND HAD NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SAG CENSORSHIP
BOARD FOR APPROVAL. BPAO RESPONDED THAT ICA
WASHINGTON INFORMED POSTS IN AFRICA THAT FILM WOULD
BE AVAILABLE AND WE HAD CORRESPONDENCE INDICATING
IF LOCAL WARNER BROTHERS OFFICE HAD QUESTIONS THEY
SHOULD CONTACT WARNER BROTHERS LONDON OFFICE.
OVISOWITZ INDICATED LOCAL OFFICE VERY CONCERNED
AND MIGHT BE FORCED TO OBTAIN INJUNCTION AGAINST
ICA JOHANNESBURG EXHIBITING FILM. BPAO RESPONDED
THAT AS FILM SHOWING WAS ON PREMISES IN JOHANNESBURG
SUCH ACTION PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE. BPAO
AGREED TO MEET WITH OVISOWITZ TO DISCUSS MATTER AND
SHOW HIM CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEGRAMS AUTHORIZING
SCREENING OF FILM. LATER, IN SECOND PHONE CALL,
OVISOWITZ SAID MEETING NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE HE
DISCOVERED ICA PERSONNEL HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

BPAO AGREED TO SEND HIM PHOTOCOPY OF CORRESPONDENCE
AUTHORIZING SCREENING.
HUGHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, CENSORSHIP, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0326
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978046/aaaaaejm.tel
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Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROOTS REPERCUSSIONS
TAGS: SCUL, SF
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db69a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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